

Lepidium Thurberi can easily be distinguished from *L. montanum*, its nearest relative, by the pubescence. In the former species the hairs are plainly visible to the unaided eye as they are often 0.5–1 mm. long. Although the fruits are very similar, those of *L. Thurberi* are more nearly rhombic and the styles average shorter.

University of Montana,
Missoula, March, 1936.

VELEZIA RIGIDA IN THE SIERRA NEVADA FOOTHILLS

CHARLES M. BELSHAW

Velezia rigida L., a low wiry annual native of the Mediterranean region, is well established in the vicinity of La Grange on warm south-facing slopes of the Tuolumne River watershed. It was collected by the writer approximately twenty-four miles northwest of La Grange, on the bank of Hunter Creek, one and one-half miles northwest of Buchanan, Tuolumne County (elevation 2300 feet, slope south 58 per cent, October 23, 1935, *Belshaw 152*). Here the species has become dominant to the exclusion of low annual grasses which usually occupy this ecological niche. A less favored habitat is open ground in woodland or chaparral.

An additional collection was made between Cool and Pilot Hill, three miles southeast of Auburn, Eldorado County (May 30, 1935, *Belshaw 945*). The species was growing in moist sandy alluvium at an elevation of 1400 feet (Upper Sonoran Zone) associated with *Quercus douglasii* H. & A. and annual grasses. No plants were seen with stems trailing.

Other known collections from California are: Humboldt Bay (without date) *H. P. Chandler*; Hupa Indian Reservation, altitude 500 feet, June, 1901, *H. P. Chandler 1306*; Supply Creek, Hupa Valley, Humboldt County, July 25, 1902, *Jepson 2120*; and Tuolumne River near La Grange, Stanislaus County, July 2, 1896, *Jepson*.

California Forest Survey,
California Forest and Range Experiment Station,
July 23, 1935.

NOTES AND NEWS

"The Genus *Eriogonum*, A Preliminary Study Based on Geographic Distribution" by Susan G. Stokes of San Diego High School was published privately and appeared June first. It may be obtained from Mr. J. T. Howell of the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco. Price \$2.50.

While enroute to Sonora, Mexico, for field studies, Dr. Forrest Shreve and Dr. David Keck stopped in San Diego on March second. Dr. Shreve spoke at the State College on "The Study of the Desert."